

REPORT

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL MEETING

MEETING DATE: SEPTEMBER 09, 2019

FROM: Planning Services Department

DATE: August 28, 2019

SUBJECT: Halton Integrated Growth Management Strategy (IGMS):
Consultation Strategy to determine Oakville's weighting of the
Evaluation Framework for the Growth Scenarios

LOCATION:

WARD: Town wide

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RECOMMENDATION:

That Oakville planning staff implement the proposed consultation strategy outlined in the report from the Planning Services department dated August 28, 2019 to obtain feedback from Oakville residents regarding what evaluation criteria and weighting of the evaluation criteria for the proposed Halton Integrated Growth Management Strategy Growth Scenarios best suit the planning needs of Oakville and report back to Oakville Council with the results of the consultation at the Planning and Development Council meeting on December 2, 2019.

KEY FACTS:

The following are key points for consideration with respect to this report:

- The 2019 Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, which came into effect on May 16, 2019, maintains the same 2041 population and employment forecasts for Halton Region as found in the 2017 Growth Plan. It requires Halton Region to plan to accommodate 1,000,000 people and 470,000 jobs by 2041.
- As part of the ongoing Regional Official Plan Review, Halton Region is determining how to accommodate forecasted population and employment growth in the region to 2041. This work is being conducted through the Region's Integrated Growth Management Strategy (IGMS) project.
- Decisions already made by Council, such as the adoption of Oakville's urban structure and the Livable Oakville Plan, have determined how Oakville will grow to 2031. The IGMS work as it relates to Oakville is really about refining

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how Oakville's share of regional growth from 2031 to 2041 will be accommodated.

- Proposed growth scenarios and a proposed evaluation matrix were presented to Regional Council on June 19, 2019. Regional council unanimously voted to defer any recommendations on this report until the Local Municipal Councils can recommend to Regional Council, for each local municipality, what evaluation criteria and weighting of the evaluation criteria best suit the planning needs of each Local Municipality.
- Halton Region sent a letter to the Chief Administrative Officers of the Halton local municipalities containing instructions on how to provide recommendations to Regional Council with respect to the evaluation criteria, which included an optional template for this purpose.
- Oakville planning staff are proposing a consultation strategy to engage local residents and enable them to provide direct feedback on the proposed evaluation criteria for the growth scenarios based on the template included in the Region's instructions.
- The proposed consultation strategy is intended to assist Oakville Council in preparation of their recommendation to Regional Council regarding the identification and weighting of the evaluation criteria that best suit the planning needs of Oakville.

BACKGROUND:

Provincial Growth Requirements

The 2017 Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe ("2017 Growth Plan") required Halton Region to be planned to accommodate 1,000,000 people and 470,000 jobs by 2041. The 2019 Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe ("2019 Growth Plan") – which came into effect on May 16, 2019 – maintains the those same 2041 population and employment forecasts for Halton Region.

Halton Region IGMS Process

The Halton Integrated Growth Management Strategy (IGMS) is a process currently being undertaken and coordinated by Halton Region to figure out where future people and jobs coming to the region should go.

On August 6, 2019, staff presented a discussion paper to Council providing a preliminary staff response and position regarding the proposed IGMS growth

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scenarios. That paper was intended to start the conversation regarding the issues that Oakville faces in the future from increased population within Halton and Oakville. It was also intended to show how decisions already made by Council have established the framework that will allow Oakville to appropriately accommodate its share of the future population that the Province has indicated that Halton Region needs to plan for by 2041. It is important to emphasize that these decisions, such as the adoption of Oakville's urban structure and the Livable Oakville Official Plan, have already determined how Oakville will grow to 2031 and establish a framework of how growth will occur well beyond 2031. Effectively, this means that the IGMS work as it relates to Oakville is really about refining how Oakville's share of regional growth from 2031 to 2041 will be accommodated.

The Livable Oakville Official Plan represents the growth management strategy for Oakville. Recent approval of Official Plan Amendment #15 to Livable Oakville by Town Council solidified a town-wide urban structure as the underlying foundation for how growth is managed in Oakville. Oakville's urban structure directs future growth to a system of nodes and corridors in order to enable viable public transit to support livable communities. By accommodating growth in those areas, Oakville can protect its most valued components – our natural heritage, our public open spaces, and our cultural heritage resources – and works to maintain the character of our established neighbourhoods that make Oakville communities unique and desirable.

Accommodating growth in accordance within the Council-approved urban structure is a crucial way to respond to the climate change emergency that Oakville is facing. Managing growth within the framework established by the urban structure enables Oakville to affect a significant reduction to Oakville's carbon emissions in a structurally sustainable way. The urban structure provides a responsible means to address the costs and pressures increased population will have on our infrastructure, address the growing issue of traffic congestion, enable continued movement of goods in and through Oakville, preserve our existing biodiversity and natural areas, and address social issues related to an aging population.

Our urban structure provides a sound strategy to best address the challenges we face from new population growth in the future and will form the foundation of the Oakville component of the IGMS.

On June 19, 2019, Regional Council considered two key reports related to the Regional Official Plan Review (ROPR): Report No. LPS41-19 ("Regional Official Plan Review - Progress Update on the Integrated Growth Management Strategy and Preliminary Growth Scenarios") and Report No. LPS45-19/PW-18-19 ("Defining Major Transit Requirements in Halton").

The Progress Update on the Integrated Growth Management Strategy and Preliminary Growth Scenarios report presented an initial technical report outlining

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potential growth scenarios for Halton. The scenarios were accompanied by evaluation criteria that would be used to evaluate the scenarios and recommend the preferred growth scenario.

At that meeting, Regional Council unanimously voted to defer the report so that input from each local municipality could be received regarding the evaluation criteria. The motion was as follows:

THAT Regional Council defer Report No. LPS41-19 until the Local Municipal Councils can recommend to Regional Council for each local municipality, in concert with Report No. LPS45- 19/PW-18-19 Item No. 2, what evaluation criteria and weighting of the evaluation criteria best suit the planning needs of each Local Municipality.

Once input from the Halton local municipalities has been received by Halton Region with respect to the evaluation criteria, Regional staff will compile the input into a supplemental report to Regional Council describing the input received and how it has been addressed in a final evaluation framework. This supplemental report will be brought to Regional Council at the same time that the deferred reports referenced above will be brought back to Regional Council for consideration. It is anticipated that this will occur in the first quarter of 2020.

Regional Council decisions are needed with respect to the recommendations in the deferred reports. Once the recommendations are addressed, Regional staff will then prepare, package and evaluate the refined IGMS growth concepts in collaboration with the Halton local municipalities and present these in a subsequent report to Regional Council. The report will first seek Regional Council's authorization to proceed with a public engagement program regarding the IGMS based on the revised growth concepts and evaluation framework. Secondly, the report will present the results of the evaluation (based on the final evaluation criteria) and describe the implications of each concept. The report will not be providing a recommendation on a preferred growth concept. It is anticipated that this meeting will occur in the third quarter of 2020 but is dependent upon what happens with the previous meeting in 2020. The Regional public engagement process for the IGMS would not begin until after authorization is received at the second meeting.

Regional Instructions

On Thursday, August 15, 2019, the Chief Administrative Officer for Halton Region sent correspondence to the Chief Administrative Officers of the local municipalities advising them that,

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“The expectation is that each Local Municipality will review the evaluation criteria and identify what evaluation criteria and weighting of the evaluation criteria best suit the planning needs of the municipality. Once input from each of the Local Municipalities has been received, Regional staff will review and prepare a supplemental report to Regional Council describing the input received and how it has been addressed in a final recommended Evaluation Framework for Regional Council’s consideration and endorsement. This supplemental report will be reviewed with the Steering Committee prior to being finalized.”

A template entitled ‘The Evaluation Framework Review Package’ was included with the correspondence that contains all of the evaluation criteria, with corresponding policy references, in a matrix. The template can be used to identify measures that are specifically relevant to local planning needs by circling “Yes” under the Local Planning Needs column of the template. In addition, the template can be used to identify the weighting of the measures by circling the number of stars, between one to five stars, to reflect the desired weighting of the measure. One (1) star indicates a low consideration whereas five (5) stars indicate the highest consideration for weighting. This template is included as Appendix A.

PROPOSED CONSULTATION STRATEGY:

Oakville planning staff are proposing the following consultation strategy to engage local residents and enable them to provide direct feedback on the proposed evaluation criteria for the IGMS growth scenarios using the template provided by Halton Region. Feedback from this consultation strategy will then assist Oakville Council in preparation of their recommendation to Regional Council regarding the identification and weighting of the evaluation criteria that best suit the planning needs of Oakville.

The objectives of the consultation strategy are:

- To inform local residents about the current Halton Integrated Growth Management Strategy, and
- To allow local residents to directly identify which of the proposed evaluation criteria they feel are applicable to Oakville and provide a weighting for each criterion.

The mechanisms to gather local resident feedback are:

- An online survey, and
- ward meetings (in consultation with members of Council).

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The primary mechanism to gather local resident input is an online survey. The survey will be structured to replicate the evaluation template provided by the Region of Halton. Each evaluation criterion will become an item in the survey asking respondents to indicate whether they believe it to be a local planning need and to then provide a weighting of one (1) to five (5) for that criterion. One (1) star indicates a low consideration whereas five (5) stars indicate the highest consideration for weighting.

The online survey is proposed to be open from September 23 to October 18 in order to report back to Council on what was heard to the December 2, 2019 Planning and Development Council meeting.

In addition, ward meetings could be scheduled in consultation with members of Council to gather this same input. These meetings would be held at a local venue within the respective ward and would be facilitated by Oakville planning staff. Each meeting would include an introduction to the IGMS, the growth scenarios and the evaluation criteria framework. Staff are proposing to utilize an interactive polling tool at the meeting to walk attendees through the same items included in the online survey. Each attendee will be given a device at the meeting, or will be able to use their own smartphone, to provide their own anonymous individual response to each item.

The potential dates available for the local ward meetings are September 24 to 26, October 1 to 3, and October 9. It is anticipated that in some instances a ward meeting could accommodate two wards at the same meeting where feasible.

The results of the survey and local ward meetings will be compiled to show the percentage of respondents that felt whether each individual criterion was considered to be a local planning need. An average and range of the weighting values for each criterion will also be compiled. These results will then be presented back to Oakville Council in a subsequent report to Planning and Development Council on December 2, 2019.

CONSIDERATIONS:

(A) PUBLIC

The public will be notified of the various ways they can participate in the proposed consultation strategy through a newspaper ad in a local newspaper, correspondence to local community and residents' associations, and through the Town's newsletter.

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(B) FINANCIAL

The cost the proposed consultation strategy can be accommodated through the Council-approved Planning budget. More broadly, the implementation of the Region's ultimate growth management strategy – through regional and local official plan amendments and master plan updates – will significantly impact the financing and delivery of municipal programs and services.

(C) IMPACT ON OTHER DEPARTMENTS & USERS

This report has no impact on other departments and users. However, the implementation of the Region's ultimate growth management strategy – through regional and local official plan amendments and master plan updates – will impact most town departments.

(D) CORPORATE AND/OR DEPARTMENT STRATEGIC GOALS

This report addresses the corporate strategic goal to:

- enhance our natural environment
- have environmentally sustainable programs/services
- be accountable in everything we do
- be fiscally sustainable
- be valued/celebrated for outstanding service
- be the most livable town in Canada

(E) COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY

The town's interest in the Regional IGMS is focused on long-term economic sustainability as well as the environmental sustainability goals and objectives of the Livable Oakville Plan.

APPENDICES:

Appendix A – The Evaluation Framework Review Package (from Halton Region)

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